

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DACCA 01473 221306Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 PRS-01 /057 W  
-----221309Z 038583 /50

R 211000Z MAR 77 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3948  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T DACCA 1473

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, BG, SU, US  
SUBJ: GENERAL ZIA'S VIEWS ON THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S.

1. DURING OUR DINNER ON MARCH 20, I ASKED GENERAL ZIA ABOUT A RECENT NEWSWEEK PERISCOPE ITEM REPORTING THAT FISHING TRAWLERS FROM THE SOVIET UNION HAD RECENTLY BEEN PROHIBITED FROM BUYING FOOD AT CHITTAGONG WHICH THEY HAD BEEN USING TO STOCK SOVIET SUBMARINES IN THE BAY OF BENGAL OUTSIDE BANGLADESH'S TERRITORIAL LIMITS. ZIA SAID THERE HAD BEEN "SOME TROUBLE" WITH THE RUSSIANS REGARDING THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE BAY OF BENGAL, BUT THIS WAS SOME TIME AGO. THERE HAD BEEN NO RECENT FLAP CONCERNING THE INDIRECT PROVISIONING OF SOVIET SUBMARINES FROM BANGLADESH.

2. ZIA WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WERE FAR TOO MANY SOVIETS IN BANGLADESH. (WE ESTIMATE THAT THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY AND AID MISSION NUMBER 400 SOVIET NATIONALS.) HE WAS CONCERNED, IN THE PRESENT POLITICAL CLIMATE, THAT THIS EXCESSIVE PRESENCE WOULD EXPOSE THE SOVIETS TO POLITICAL ATTACK AND THAT THEIR PEOPLE MIGHT GET INTO DIFFICULTY TRAVELLING AROUND THE COUNTRY. ZIA SAID HE HAS TAKEN STEPS TO PARE DOWN THE SOVIET PRESENCE TO MORE REALISTIC NUMBERS.

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3. ZIA SAID HE HOPED WE HAD NOT TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY "ONE OR TWO RECENT STATEMENTS" CRITICAL OF THE UNITED STATES. (THIS WAS A REFERENCE IN PARTICULAR TO EDUCATION ADVISER ABUL FAZAL'S PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET IN THE PAKISTAN-BANGLADESHI WAR OF 1971 - DACCA 0505). ZIA NOTED THAT HE IS

CONVINCED FROM HIS WIDE TRAVELS AROUND BANGLADESH THAT  
THE UNITED STATES IS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM BY THE VAST  
MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, A FEW  
PEOPLE WHO STILL REFLECT THE "OLD ATTITUDES". ZIA  
SAID THE SOVIETS HAD THINGS VERY MUCH THEIR OWN WAY  
FROM 1972 UNTIL AUGUST OF 1975. AS A RESULT, THEY STILL  
HAVE SOME INFLUENCE BUT ZIA SAID THIS IS ERODING. HE  
CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT HE IS TRYING TO ACCELERATE THIS  
PROCESS.  
MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, BG, SU, US, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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